7/20/71

Mr. William Loeb
Pride's Crossing, Mass.

Dear Bill,

Belatedly, I have just seen the accounts of your unsigned statement from Partin in the NO..Times- Picayune for 5/10/71, so I write about this and other matters with which I should have annoyed you earlier.

I have no doubt that DJ/RFK/Walter Sheridan long ago made a deal with Partin to get Hoffa and leave Partin alone, have always felt so. I also noted that they went after Partin on a matter unrelated to the DJ deal, so they did not violate their word or the deal. We may or may not agree, but I see no improvement in the present bunch in DJ, and they are more willing to lie in public today. And in private. And to perjure, where I've had my own experiences. I believe you might be able to time the move to put Partin away with Epstein's departure from the sunny southland, just a hunch.

If you do not have to keep it secret, I'd like a copy of the Partin statement for use in backgrounding, for I expect something to happen, or for no use at all, if you so specify, but for my understanding. And I'd ~~kkkk~~ like 3-4 sets of your stories to give to people.

I have no way of knowing what is going on in N.O. now or whether or not the DJ has a case on Garrison, but to the degree I can I have been watching it and do believe they have no case on him and jeopardized their case against the pinballers for ulterior purposes. Among these I believe is the whittling away of our basic freedoms. Hoover, of course, wants to taste Garrison's blood as much as Hoffa wants a Kennedy flavor.

One of the most solid cases again the saintly indispensible (ask him) is in my FRAME-UP, where, although I do not believe it, the publishers are believed by all my friends to have been reached. To date they haven't arranged a single promo, no press conference, etc. And, of course, all those great "liberals", from the NYTimes, which got a Stanford professor (also USIA contributor) to axe it, to the bigger talk shows, helped. I enclose other than fink comment from the Times of London, Publishers' Weekly and The Saturday Review.

Were Partin to sing now, it would hurt only Demos/BNK, so I'll not be too surprised if he does, unless the bureaucrats, who never die, in the DJ, can reach up higher. In fact, if I ran DJ, I'd nudge him on! They seem to have made a deal with Hoffa anyway. If they have, I have a notion there may be different interpretations of it!

Best regards,

Harold Weisberg